

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 01559 311755Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
AGRE-00 DIWY-01 DHA-05 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /065 W
-----002572 311815Z /46

O R 311720Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3427
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1559

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MOPS GV
SUBJECT: PEOPLE VS POLICE: MARKET WOMEN MARCH -- SITREP FOUR

REF: CONAKRY 1546

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED TEXT OF SEKOU TOURE'S
SPEECH AT PEOPLES PALACE MASS MEETING ON SUNDAY
AUGUST 28, PUBLISHED AS SPECIAL HOROYA BULLETIN
DATED AUGUST 29. BULLETIN LIMDIS TO HIGHER GUINEAN
CADRES ONLY, ACCORDING TO SOURCE. (COPIES BEING
AIR POUCHED TO DEPT -- AF/W.)
2. TEXT CONFIRMS THAT TOURE CONDEMNED AUGUST 27
DISORDERS AND BLAMED "CLASS ENEMY" FOR DUPING MARKET
WOMEN INTO PROTESTING. TOURE ADMITTED TO CROWD
THAT ECONOMIC POLICE HAD WRONGFULLY ACTED IN "LITTLE
INCIDENT" INVOLVING MEDINA WOMEN, HAD PREVIOUSLY
BEEN GUILTY OF "BRUTALITY," AND HAD APPROPRIATED ILLICIT
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GOODS FOR THEMSELVES INSTEAD OF MAKING GOODS AVAILABLE
TO STATE OUTLETS. THEY BLACKMARKETEERED, WERE SOMETIMES
ACCOMPLICES OF THIEVES, AND HARASSED WOMEN "FOR HAVING
FOUR LOAVES OF BREAD RATHER THAN TWO." THIS TOURE SAID,
WAS NOT ECONOMIC POLICE WORK BUT "BANDITISM BECOME
LAW." PARTY CONDEMNS THIS.

3. HOWEVER, TOURE WENT ON, SATURDAY'S EVENTS IN MARKET WERE "COUNTERREVOLUTION." NOTING DISORDER AND LOOTING THAT HAD ACCOMPANIED MARCH ON PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, TOURE CLAIMED HE HAD ORDERED THAT AN AUDIENCE BE ARRANGED, NO ONE BE "BRUTALIZED," ECONOMIC POLICE BE WITHDRAWN FROM MARKETS, AND WOMEN GO IN PEACE. ALTHOUGH MANY WOMEN WERE SATISFIED WITH THIS, "CERTAIN MEN, BANDITS, 'BANA-BANAS'," UNFORTUNATELY GATHERED AMONG WOMEN TO FORMENT REAL DISORDER, AND GENDARMERIE, MILITIA, AND ARMY WERE CALLED IN. TOURE SAID HE HAD ORDERED LATTER FORCES TO PUT DOWN ANY DISORDER, ROUND UP ILLEGAL PETTYTRADERS AND ARREST ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE. HE BLAMED "OLD-TIME SMUGGLERS" AND "TOOLS OF SATAN" HIDING BEHIND MARKET WOMEN AND CHILDREN. (COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THIS SPEECH DID NOT SATISFY CROWD, WHICH BEGAN ANOTHER MOVE TOWARD TOURE'S RESIDENCE AND WAS DETERRED BY GENDARMERIE SHOOTING IN AIR.)

4. DURING DAY OF AUGUST 31, MILITANTS AND MARKET WOMEN WERE CALLED TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS AT CONAKRY CITY SECTOR AND FEDERATION LEVELS. "WORKERS" WERE ALSO CONVOKED TO TRADE UNION HEADQUARTERS. RESPONSE WAS SPOTTY AND UNENTHUSIASTIC, ESPECIALLY AMONG WOMEN. MANY DOWNTOWN OFFICES CLOSED DOORS IN ANTICIPATION OF

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A RUMORED "REVOLUTIONARY MARCH" BY WOMEN IN SUPPORT OF SEKOU TOURE, WHICH DID NOT OCCUR.

5. GUINEAN DOCTOR TOLD THIRD-WORLD DIPLOMAT HE HAD SEEN "MANY DOZEN WOUNDED" IN IGNACE DEEN HOSPITAL AFTER WEEKEND FRACAS, AND ESTIMATED INJURED AT "SEVERAL HUNDRED IN CONAKRY". MANY OF THESE WERE QUICKLY TREATED MINOR INJURIES HOWEVER; THERE WERE ONLY A FEW KNOWN DEATHS AND NO EXECUTIONS.

6. FRICTION BETWEEN ARMY AND POLICE AROSE AT LEAST TEN DAYS AGO IN INCIDENT ON AIRPORT ROAD. SEVERAL SOURCES AGREE THAT AN ARMY OFFICER AND ECONOMIC POLICEMAN FOUGHT AFTER DISAGREEING OVER LATTER'S SHAKEDOWN OF AN ELDERLY WOMAN "SMUGGLER" AND UGLY FACEDOWN BETWEEN ARMY UNIT AND POLICE OCCURRED. AMERICAN SHIP CREW THOUGHT THEY SAW BRIEF SHOOTING INCIDENT BETWEEN BLUE-UNIFORMED POLICE AND KHAKI-CLAD SOLDIERS AUGUST 28. A LEBANESE ON AUGUST 27 SAW SOLDIERS ACTUALLY HELPING SACK A POLICE POST IN CONAKRY. MANY SPOUSES OF MARKET WOMEN, IT TURNS OUT, ARE SOLDIERS.

7. AMERICAN PL-480 RICE FROM S.S. DEL SOL (NOW IN PORT)
VISIBLY BEING PASSED OUT TO LOCAL PRL'S IN CONAKRY
DURING LAST TWO DAYS.

8. ABOUT MID-AUGUST, ALL WALL PORTRAITS OF SEKOU TOURE
AND OTHER "WORLD REVOLUTIONARIES", A HALLOWED IF GARISH FEATURE
OF GUINEA, BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR FROM CONAKRY BUILDINGS. THIS PROCESS
WAS COMPLETED SHORTLY BEFORE AUGUST 27 EVENTS. SOURCES DIVIDED
WHY TOURE SO ACTED. WHILE RUMORS CREDIT TOURE'S SENSITIVITY
OVER IMPLICIT FRENCH OR CUBAN PRESS CRITICISM OF "AFRICAN
CULTS OF PERSONALITY", SOME GOG SOURCES HINT ANTI-TOURE
GRAFFITI AND CARICATURES WERE BEGINNING TO MAKE WALL
PORTRAITS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

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9. ADDITIONAL SITREPS WILL FOLLOW AS SITUATION WARRANTS.
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Message Attributes

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